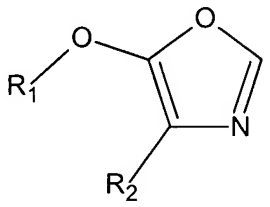
COPY OF ALL CLAIMS

1-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A process for continuously preparing 5-alkoxy-substituted oxazoles of the formula I



I

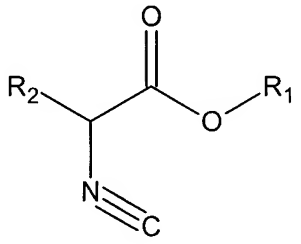
where

R_1 is an unsubstituted or substituted C_1-C_6-alkyl radical and

R_2 is hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted C_1-C_6-alkyl radical,

which comprises

converting continuously added α-isocyanoalkanoate esters of the formula II



II

in the presence of continuously added cyclizing assistants selected from the group consisting of bases, alcohols and esters,

at temperatures above 80°C

in a reaction column

to the 5-alkoxy-substituted oxazoles of the formula I, and continuously removing the 5-alkoxy-substituted oxazoles of the formula I from the reaction mixture by rectification ~~as claimed in claim 9~~, wherein the rectification parameters are set in such a way that

A the α-isocyanoalkanoate esters of the formula II are converted to the 5-alkoxy-substituted oxazoles of the formula I on ~~the~~ internals in the reaction column and, if present, in a ~~the~~ liquid phase of the reaction column,

B the 5-alkoxy-substituted oxazoles of the formula I resulting from the conversion are continuously removed with a ~~the~~ top stream or sidestream of the reaction column and

C the assistant and any high-boilers resulting from the conversion are removed continuously and independently of each other with a ~~the~~ bottom stream or sidestream of the reaction column.

11. (currently amended) The process of claim 10 ~~A process as claimed in claim 9~~, wherein the conversion is carried out in the presence of an inert solvent and the reaction parameters are set in such a way that

A the α-isocyanoalkanoate esters of the formula II are converted to the 5-alkoxy-substituted oxazoles of the formula I on the internals and, if present, in the liquid phase of the reaction column,

B1 when the solvent has a higher boiling point than the 5-alkoxy-substituted

oxazoles of the formula I resulting from the conversion, the 5-alkoxy-substituted oxazoles of the formula I are continuously removed with the top stream and the solvent is continuously removed via the sidestream or bottom stream of the reaction column,

B2 when the solvent has a lower boiling point than the 5-alkoxy-substituted oxazoles of the formula I resulting from the conversion, the 5-alkoxy-substituted oxazoles of the formula I are continuously removed with a sidestream and the solvent is continuously removed with the top stream of the reaction column, and

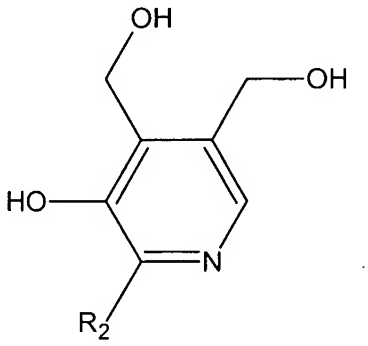
C the assistant and any high-boilers resulting from the conversion are removed continuously and independently of each other with the bottom stream or sidestream of the reaction column.

12. (currently amended) The process of claim 10 ~~A process as claimed in claim 9~~, wherein the reaction column used is a dividing wall column.

13. (currently amended) The process of claim 10 ~~A process as claimed in claim 9~~, wherein, when the assistant forms an azeotrope with the 5-alkoxy-substituted oxazoles of the formula I, the top pressure of the column is set in such a way that the fraction of the assistant in the azeotrope in the top stream is as low as possible.

14. (currently amended) The process of claim 10 ~~A process as claimed in claim 9~~, wherein the top pressure of the column is set to from 5 to 800mbar and the resulting bottom pressure, which depends on the type of column used and, if used, the type of column internals, is from 10 mbar to atmospheric pressure.

15. (currently amended) A process for preparing pyridoxine derivatives of the formula IX

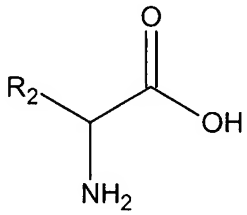


IX

where

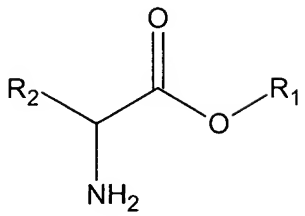
R_2 is hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted C_1-C_6-alkyl radical,

which comprises converting amino acids of the formula III



III

to amino esters of the formula IV,

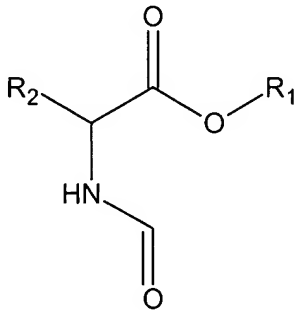


IV

where

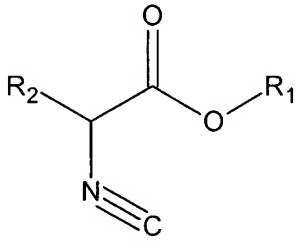
R_1 is an unsubstituted or substituted C_1-C_6-alkyl radical,

converting the latter into formamido esters of the formula V,



V

converting the latter into α-isocyanoalkanoate esters of the formula II,



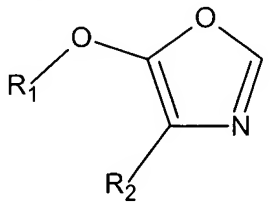
II

converting the latter in a continuous process step

in the presence of cyclizing assistants selected from the group consisting of bases, alcohols and esters ~~assistants~~

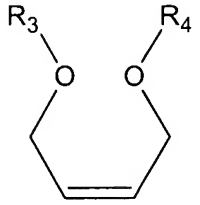
at temperatures above 80°C

to 5-alkoxy-substituted oxazoles of the formula I



I

reacting the latter with protected diols of the formula VI

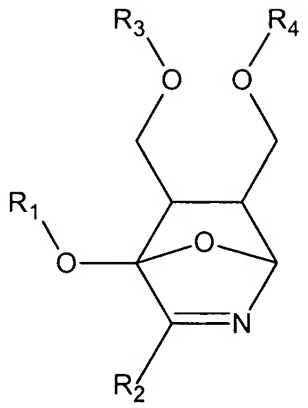


VI

where

R_3 and R_4 independently or R_3 and R_4 together are a protecting group of the hydroxy function,

to give the Diels-Alder adducts of the formula VII



VII

and converting the latter by acid treatment and detachment of the protecting group to the pyridoxine derivatives of the formula IX.